

Presby

1844

1954

*One Hundred-Tenth
Anniversary*



Galum Presbyterian Church

Pinckneyville, Illinois

Sunday, June 27, 1954

Mr. William E. Timpner
R. R. No. 1
Pinckneyville, Ill. 62274

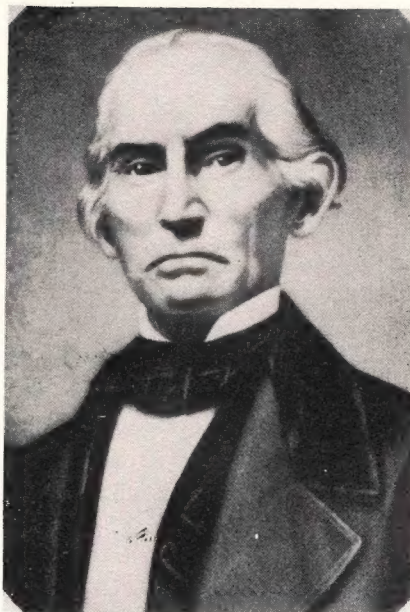
History of Galum Presbyterian Church

Galum Presbyterian Church was organized by Rev. Cyrus Riggs, June 29, 1844, at the house of James C. Kimzey. This farm home, near Galum Creek on Four Mile Prairie, was about one-half mile south and east of the wooded hill on which Galum Church is located today. The charter members were twelve in number: William Hamilton, Nancy Hamilton, Mary Kimzey, Jane Brown, Ann Hamilton, Julina Ann Woodside, John Hamilton, Polly Matilda Foster, Jane Kimzey, Nancy Jane Hamilton, James C. Kimzey, and Woods L. Hamilton. John Hamilton and William Hamilton were chosen ruling elders and Woods L. Hamilton a deacon.

Rev. Cyrus Riggs, who was pastor of the church for four years, came to Illinois around 1805, serving for many years as an itinerant preacher. He organized and traveled much, serving churches in a large area. At one time he worked with the Chester Church, then established the Elkhorn Church, near Oakdale, which later became the Nashville Presbyterian Church. Then he came to Galum in 1844. He died in 1849, at the age of 75, and was buried in the Elkhorn Cemetery.

After the organization of Galum, church services were held in homes of members until 1845 when an appeal was made to the Church Extension Board for aid to build a house of worship, Rev. Riggs acting as agent. The request was granted and one hundred dollars was given on the terms that deed and title be held by the board until "a comfortable and sufficient house of worship" was complete and debt free, at which time the deed would be made to the congregation of Galum Church. Eighty acres of land was purchased and a building of logs was erected, with pulpit of clapboards and crude benches installed therein. The work was done by volunteer workers on this building which was situated just north and west of the present church.

1848 Rev. B. F. Spilman came to Galum in August 1848. Presbyterianism in Illinois owes much to Rev. Spilman, for he spent much of his time travelling, organizing churches, and helping in those that had been organized previously. In one year's time he travelled 3688 miles on horseback. In the six years from 1845 (part of this time he served at Galum) he preached 959 sermons, organized 13 churches, installed 11 Elders, made 254 visits, baptized 98, administered the supper 36 times and received 132 persons into the Church. Rev. Spilman preached 56 sermons at Galum, evidently the last service being held in 1851.



Rev. B. F. Spilman
1848-1851

John Steele was installed as elder in 1844, then E. R. Kimzey and J. N. Graham became elders in 1850.

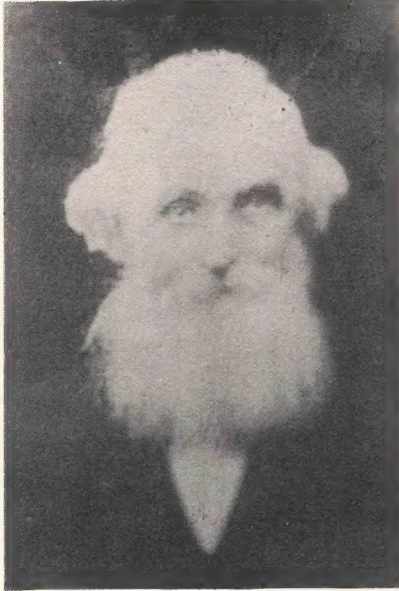
1853 Rev. C. D. Martin is mentioned as pastor for a short while in 1853. In this year James Taylor, Alexander Kimzey and W. L. Hamilton were elected elders.

1854 The first house of worship seemed insufficient when the membership grew in ten years from 12 to 60. In 1854 seventy acres of land were sold for six hundred dollars which was the amount used to pay the expenses for the new building erected on the remaining ten acres. This is the present church, although it has been remodelled several times. The original logs are still in view in the basement. According to an account in the History of the Presbyterian Church in Illinois—"The building was finished in 1854, thirty four by forty-four, ceiled throughout, and cost six hundred dollars. It is in the timber, no other building of any kind being in sight."

It was while building this church that Ephraim Robinson Kimzey, an elder, was killed in January 1854, when his wagon, on which he was hauling a log to the sawmill, overturned crushing him to death.

Rev. John Matthews came as a pastor in September 1854.

Rev. Daniel Steele served as pastor from September 1855 until August 6, 1858. The new elders, chosen in 1856, were John M. Craig and Moses French. 1855



Rev. William H. Templeton
1858-1869

Rev. William H. Templeton was the pastor of Galum Church for more than eleven years, beginning his service there in December, 1858. He had been a missionary to the Creek Indians for several years before moving to Perry County, to a house at the location of the present home of Grant Anderson, our oldest member and, incidentally, that of our youngest member, his grandson, Charles Anderson. 1858

Evidently Rev. Templeton served as pastor for the second time, from 1884 to 1885. After his actual pastoral relations were severed he continued to reside at his farm home with his family while serving

as pastor elsewhere. Through the years Rev. Templeton was ready to help Galum people when needed, acting as moderator, officiating at weddings and funerals, and preaching sermons. A few days after he passed away on Easter morning, 1911, Rev. William H. Templeton was laid to rest in Galum Cemetery, very near the church which he had served so long and so well.

His son, William C. Templeton, became a minister and served 55 years in that profession, coming back to Galum when possible and visiting with many friends here and delivering sermons on various occasions.

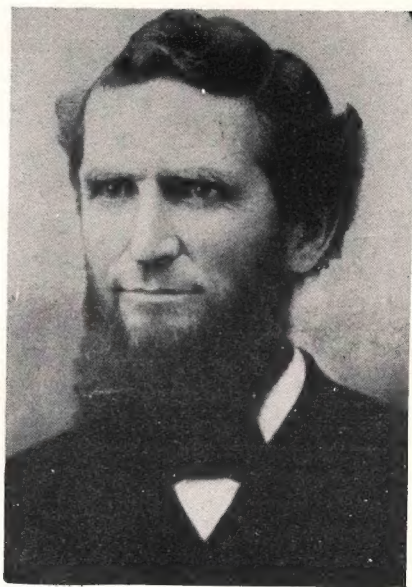
No records are available concerning a Sunday School until about 1860. Having no lesson helps, the superintendent assigned portions of the Bible as the lesson. The earliest Superintendent known was William Hamilton. Each teacher read and discussed the lessons, having the pupils memorize verses and passages. It was fifteen years later that lesson helps were adopted. Sunday School as well as church services were frequently dismissed for the winter because of the bad roads. 1860

About 1865 branch Sunday Schools were organized at Six-mile, Bigham, Baird, Kimzey, Thompson, and Gladson Schools. These were under the direction of persons who went to Galum in the morning and conducted these schools in the afternoon. This arrangement made Sunday School available to a greater number of persons as the only means of travel was by foot or horseback.

1869 Services continued as usual during the years following 1869, but nothing unusual seemed to have occurred. W. S. Armstrong, John V. Tyler, A. T. Hughey, J. P. Rial, William Kimzey, and H. M. Brown became elders, and the following pastors were listed: Rev. G. R. Perkins (1869-1872); Rev. G. B. McComb (1873-1875); Rev. M. M. Cooper (October 1875-October 1876); Rev. G. B. McComb (1878); Rev. S. B. Ward (1879-1882); Rev. W. C. Smith (April 1883-1884).

1885 In May 1885 Rev. J. H. Spilman was installed as pastor of Galum and served until his death in 1897. Born in Hillsboro, Illinois, this minister was the nephew of the former pastor, Rev. B. F. Spilman.

It was during this period that Galum's Christian Endeavor Society was organized by Mrs. J. H. Spilman with the assistance of her husband. The following people were the first officers to be elected: President—Ellington Cunningham; Vice-President—Nettie Pyatt; Secretary—Emma Templeton; Treasurer—William Krick. During the first year only two services were cancelled due to bad weather. For many years this society flourished, training young Christians to take their part in the work of the church.



Rev. J. H. Spilman
1885-1897

Around 1885 Townsend Blanchard, president of the Sunday School Association, assisted by Rev. H. B. Douglas of Centralia, gave encouragement and impetus to the Sunday School Organization and after this time Sunday School was not discontinued during the winter months. Mr. Blanchard brought an organ

along in his buckboard and it was played by his daughter Mrs. Sam Haines. Soon after this the Sunday School purchased an organ.

Children's Day was observed in 1885 with a special program by the children, and it continued to play a big part in the training of Sunday School youngsters, adding to their social life as the days they met to practice provided an opportunity to have fun on the grounds and enjoy one another's company.

In 1886, J. A. Hamilton, John F. Stephenson, and L. F. Cloud were installed as elders.

For years there was very little change made in the church building. However, in 1890, the people decided to repair and remodel under the supervision of William G. Wilson and a building committee composed of William H. Kimzey, F. W. Smith, and B. F. Thompson. These men directed the work, much of which was donated. For example A. T. Hughey, an elder over over seventy, worked eighty-one days besides making liberal donations.



The Church, 1891-1922

1891 The remodelled church was re-dedicated February 8, 1891 with Rev. Spilman, the pastor, and Rev. W. H. Templeton delivering the dedication sermon. The last surviving charter member, Mrs. Jane Hamilton, was present at this, the third dedication. Also present was Rev. A. S. Hughey, one of the young men who went from Galum into the ministry.

Between 1873 and 1895 the following were elected to serve as trustees: Robert Rule, A. Stewart Hamilton, James C. Steele, William B. Kimzey, William Kelley, Samuel D. Rule, John N. Hughey, Ben F. Thompson, George V. Cunningham, Evan B. Maxwell, Thomas M. Smith, William Bigham, George E. Cunningham, John F. Templeton, Elijah E. Hamilton, John L. Pyatt, and William G. Maxwell. In 1895 Francis Smith, Robert I. Pyatt, F. P. Anderson, and John Templeton became elders.

1897 Much to the sorrow of Galum congregation, Rev. J. H. Spilman passed away in 1897, at the age of 57, having served cheerfully and faithfully for twelve fruitful years. The greatest number of additions to the church in any one year was made in 1886 during Rev. Spilman's ministry.

Rev. Alexander Sharp was called upon to preach during Rev. J. H. Spilman's illness and for a time afterwards.

1899 Very little is mentioned in the records concerning this period of time. The following were ministers of Galum during the period: (1889-1906) Rev. William A. McMinn 1899; Rev. J. M. McKnight (1900-1902); Rev. Robert Watt 1900; Rev. L. C. Gray (May, 1903-Feb., 1905); Rev. William Davidson (Oct., 1905- April, 1906)

1904 When plans were being made to purchase a manse, it was deemed necessary to organize a society which would care for the funds realized from the sale of Sunday eggs and a money raising project with which youngsters started with one dime each. It was around 1904 that a Ladies Aid Society was organized with Mrs. Porter Baird as the president. Early in the history of the organization the "Chicken Fry" was started. At first it was a small social gathering in Baird's Grove, an affair where home made ice cream and fried chicken could be bought and friends could visit. In a few years this event drew a large gathering with men engaging a team and buggy or surrey from the livery stables at Pinckneyville and Du Quoin for weeks and months in advance. Later, when the land was sold for strip mining, the location was changed to the John L. Pyatt farm where it was held for several years. Through the years the Chicken Fry has proved to be the chief source of revenue to help provide for the upkeep of the manse and church building.

Rev. J. D. Neidermeyer preached his first sermon at Galum and stayed here from June to September in the year of 1906. At the close of the young minister's summer's work, as he had not been ordained, Rev. W. H. Templeton received nine persons into membership of the Church.

1906

Rev. N. L. New came to Galum as pastor in June, 1907. A manse was purchased in Pinckneyville at the time that a call was extended to Rev. New to come, offering him the manse and a salary per year of \$850. In this same year Thomas Templeton was chosen elder and James A. Johnson a trustee.

1907



*Rev. W. M. Maxton
friend and counselor of Galum
1908-1945*

The Galum congregation certainly gained a sympathetic friend and wise counselor, in 1908, when Rev. William McAra Maxton came as pastor to the Du Quoin Presbyterian Church. He was born in Perthshire, Scotland, in 1868, and came to United States as a young man, coming to Du Quoin in 1908. Many times Rev. Maxton served as moderator for the Galum Session and Congregation. Often he was the one to join in marriage the young people of the church, for he was an old friend whose sincerity made the occasion more meaningful and the tie a lasting one. Many loved ones were laid to

1908

rest in the Galum Cemetery after Rev. Maxton had given a sympathetic message of comfort and hope. When Galum was temporarily without a pastor it was Rev. Maxton who, time and time again, helped to make arrangements for a minister who was just right for the position. Rev. Maxton was a familiar figure at the annual "Chicken Fry" and Cemetery Cleaning Gathering, greeting friends with a hearty Scottish brogue and visiting with all. Rev. Maxton, even though he was not a pastor, really served Galum Church faithfully, being there when needed, for almost forty years.

A young minister from Ottawa, Canada, in the graduating class of McCormick Seminary, was asked to come to Galum to

1910

occupy the pulpit on the second Sabbath of January, 1910. After preaching for three Sundays of cold weather and snowy roads, Rev. H. B. Wooding consented to come to be pastor of the Galum Church. He was ordained and installed at a called meeting of Ewing Presbytery which was held at Galum in May, with the people enjoying the privilege of witnessing the ceremony.

After the organization of the First Presbyterian Church in Pinckneyville, arrangements were made for Rev. Wooding to preach to the Galum congregation in the morning and the Pinckneyville Congregation in the afternoon.

Rev. Wooding, with his dynamic personality provided great inspiration as a pastor but has also contributed greatly through the years by coming back occasionally to visit with Galum friends.

1912 James M. Pyatt was installed as elder in 1912 and served faithfully for twenty-five years. Rev. R. G. Carnahan was pastor in 1913.

1915 Rev. John Hamerson's pastorate can be remembered by many because he was quite a musician and encouraged the young people of the church to study music. During his years at Galum he organized and conducted a young people's orchestra which added to the interest on the part of the participants as well as the listeners. Rev. Hamerson's son, John Lars, is now in the ministry.

In 1915 W. M. McIlrath and W. W. Armstrong became elders and served for thirty-two and thirty-eight years respectively.

1918 A number of young men from Galum answered their country's call to serve in World War I just as their forefathers did in previous wars. The people at home backed them by doing everything they could on the home front.

For many years the church has celebrated Memorial Day with a special service. Flags mark the graves of soldiers, and youngsters carry baskets of flowers to decorate the graves.

Memorial Day, May 30, 1918 was especially meaningful with the future uncertain and young men away from home. Galum people had much for which to give thanks that they lost none of their members by death in that conflict, a fact which was not true in the Civil War.



Interior of Church, 1918

Rev. Merle Q. Stevenson was pastor from May, 1918 to May, 1919. It was during the summer of 1918 that farm help was difficult to obtain, and Rev. Stevenson stayed at the home of John L. Pyatt and took the part of a farm hand in the harvest fields, shocking wheat.

When Rev. Stevenson's pastorate was over at Galum he left behind many friends who wished him well, and their prayers followed him when he answered the call to "Go and Preach the Gospel to Other Nations." He went to China where he served as a missionary for several years.

Rev. Turner G. Brashear came to Galum in July, 1919 and left in October, 1921. This minister was quite interested in the Missionary Movement and advocated the organization of a Missionary Society and evidently started the women considering the possibility of such an organization.

1919

Rev. Sutherland succeeded Rev. Brashear in April 1922, but being rather frail, he stayed with us only until October of the same year.

1922



*Picture was taken after basement
was put under Church in 1922.*

In 1922, the people of Galum decided to raise the church building, dig a basement under it, and install a furnace. Some thought the building could not stand to be raised but optimistic men, under the supervision of Ellington Cunningham, used jacks so carefully that the project was a success. The basement was completed and the huge logs were exposed to become the ceiling of the basement. Later these logs were laboriously barked by corn knives and hatchets so that the ceiling could have a better coat of paint. A coal furnace was put in to heat the building more comfortably and the Children's Department of the Sunday School was transferred to the basement.

1924 Rev. Marshall Pinkerton, a young, energetic individual with a friendly disposition, served as minister of Galum from May to September, 1924 and also from June to September in 1925. He was especially inspirational as a result of his preparation to become a missionary. He was so filled with the desire to carry the message to other lands that he inspired the people to help the missionary cause.

Rev. Harold E. Lobaugh was a student in the seminary at St. Louis and came to Galum on week-ends, preaching here from November, 1924 until April, 1925. Rev. Lobaugh was instrumental in helping to arrange a missionary program which was

held one Sunday during his pastorate. At this meeting a discussion was held concerning the organization of a Missionary Society. This led to the first meeting of the Women's Missionary Society of Galum on Wednesday, April 22, 1925. According to the minutes of this meeting the following officers were elected: President—Pearl Pyatt; Vice-President—Ethel C. Pyatt; Secretary—Laura Hamilton; Treasurer—Pearl Brown. The society has been active up to the present time.

Rev. Leonard Gaylord served the church from September 1925 to April 27, 1927. In 1925 the present piano was purchased, replacing organs which had been used for forty years. Chicken fry proceeds, ice cream social, and personal donations were used to pay for the piano. During the ministry of Rev. Gaylord, Robert Armstrong, Harry Cunningham, and Fred Smith became elders, and Dwight Hamilton, Lyman Smith, and Loren Anderson trustees. 1925

Rev. Monroe Seals came to Galum in December, 1927, and stayed until in April, 1929. During the Seals' stay here Mrs. Seals was elected president of the Missionary Society in 1928. During this year Ernest Reinhardt became trustee. 1927

Rev. A. L. Whitfield was pastor from May, 1929 until May, 1932. Mrs. Whitfield was also quite active in the Missionary Society, having served as secretary of associate members in 1930 and as president in 1931. 1929

Rev. Craighead, an elderly minister, was here from June 1932 until September, 1932. In August, 1932, when home on furlough from India, Rev. Pinkerton presented the church with a Hindu water jar which has been in use since as the baptismal bowl. 1932

Rev. Benjamin Thomas began his ministry at Galum in November, 1932. Mrs. Thomas and the daughter, Helen, and son, Stephen, also played a big part in the life of the church during their stay here which ended in August, 1937.

To Rev. Thomas and his family goes the credit of organizing the Daily Vacation Church School in July, 1933. This was the first attempt to hold such a school at Galum and many thought it was unwise to try to do so. However, the school was a huge success. Seventy-one pupils, not all Presbyterians, attended three or more days. The nine teachers included the four members of the Thomas family. Then, the 1934 School went beyond the 1933 School both in attendance and effectiveness.



The 25th Anniversary, 1934

FIRST ROW—Mrs. Dora Pyatt, Norman Armstrong, Mr. Robert Hughey, Mrs. Edna Hamilton, Barbara Stevenson, Mr. E. E. Hamilton, Mr. John A. Hamilton, Richard Pyatt, Mrs. Birdie Sims, Harvey Reinhardt.

SECOND ROW—Mrs. Mollie Cunningham, Dr. W. F. Jones, Edward Malan, Clarence Armstrong, Bobbie Vick, Kenneth Schumier, Wanda Lee Pyatt, Dorothy Schumier, Russell Schumier, Robert I. Pyatt, Mrs. Ann Hamilton, Virginia Choisser, Jane Kimmel, Marion Vick, Mrs. Elsie Rogers, Mrs. Margaret Vick, Dwight Hamilton, Mrs. James M. Pyatt.

THIRD ROW—Frank Pyatt, Lyman Smith, Guy Campbell, Mrs. Eunice M. Jones, Bonnie Lou Choisser, Mrs. Cora Armstrong, Mrs. Della Pyatt, John L. Pyatt, Evelyn Bigham, Rev. M. Q. Stevenson, Mrs. Hortense Stevenson, Maurice Pyatt.

FOURTH ROW—Betty Stevenson, Norma June Cunningham, Dorothy Choisser, Frances Torrens, Mrs. Maxine Torrens, Olive Pyatt, Mrs. Ella Anderson, Mrs. Pearl Pyatt, Mrs. Edna Anderson, Martin McIlrath, Eleanor Pyatt, Rosamond Pyatt, Helen Pyatt, Grace Stevenson, Elizabeth Cunningham, Gertrude Smith, Rev. Scroggs, Rev. Benj. Thomas.

FIFTH ROW—Mrs. Martha Cunningham, Mrs. Jennie Mitchell, Mrs. Cora Keene, Dorothy Smith, Mrs. Belle Johnson, Mrs. Olive Pyatt, George W. Pyatt, Mrs. Myrtle Schumier, Lewis Smith, Jessie Smith, Becky Jean Smith, Leona Reinhardt, Nellie Choisser.

SIXTH ROW—Jo Choisser, Miss Jeanette Pyatt, Mrs. Joan Maxwell, Walter Brown, Mrs. Nora Brown, Mrs. Roxie Dry, Mrs. Lois Armstrong, Dwight Armstrong, Mrs. Jennie Brown, Ethel Verneda Brown, Mrs. Mattie Bigham.

TOP ROW—Wm. Armstrong, John Keene, James M. Pyatt, F. P. Anderson, Mrs. Talitha Bigham, Miss Jean Templeton, Mrs. Ada Smith, Mrs. Bena Reinhardt, Lucille Pyatt, Rev. Wm. Maxton, Lena Reinhardt, Helen Thomas, George Dean Pyatt, Hazel Pyatt, Mrs. Benj. Thomas, Mrs. Mae Brown, Mrs. Elizabeth Reinhardt, Archie Reinhardt, Ernest Reinhardt, Bobby Reinhardt.

The ninetieth anniversary of Galum Church was celebrated June 20, 1934. Two former pastors were present — Rev. Merle Stevenson and Rev. L. M. Scroggs. Rev. Maxton conducted the worship service in the afternoon. The histories of the various church organizations were read.

Rev. W. D. Roberts, a native of Wales, came to be pastor of Galum in September, 1937. He was with us, working earnestly for the Master, until he became ill and passed away in March, 1945. It was during this period of time, with the encouragement of Rev. Roberts, that a much needed remodelling program was carried out and Celotex covered the ancient plaster on the walls and ceiling. Then in June of 1944 the one hundredth anniversary was celebrated with Rev. W. C. Templeton, son of the former pastor, having charge of the morning service.

1855

The Galum Cemetery Association was organized in May 30, 1938. Five board members were elected to serve with the trustees to direct the work of caring for the cemetery. Dr. J. S. Templeton was elected chairman and Miss Jennie Pyatt secretary and treasurer. Since that date the organization has been responsible for the care of the cemetery, with donations coming in from friends, far and near, who have loved ones laid to rest in that quiet hillside cemetery. Before the organization of the association, interested relatives took care of their own family lots. One of the high points of the year came in August, after the grain harvest was completed, when cemetery cleaning was held. There was a great bustle and hum of activity as the men cut grass, raking it and cleaning away brush, while the women prepared the basket dinner set out on long tables under the tall oak trees. This was a time of reunion and Christian fellowship. Soon after the organization of the Cemetery Association, Roy Bigham and John I. Pyatt began their service as trustees. Once again the youth of the church were called into service of their country in World War II, all returning safely at the close of the war.

1938

Rev. C. J. McEvers was serving as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Pinckneyville when Rev. Roberts died, so he was elected as moderator for Galum Church until a pastor was installed. Rev. McEvers preached in the afternoon part of the time until March, 1946, when he became pastor, giving one-third of his time to Galum. He was with us until May, 1950. Thomas Torrens was installed as elder during this period.

1945

1950 The tradition of the fathers and the orthodox faith of the Presbyterian Church has been carried on ably and efficiently under the care and leadership of Rev. H. E. Ivens, the present pastor, who came to Galum in September, 1950.

1952 In September, 1952, the congregation of Galum voted to sell the manse in Pinckneyville and with the proceeds remodel the church, replacing fixtures as needed. This was done during the summer and fall of 1953, with paint adding to the appearance of the interior and exterior as well. Labor was donated for the painting of the basement and the outside of the church.



Rev. H. E. Ivens
present pastor

A chicken fry, which had been discontinued for several years, was held and with everyone working together a substantial amount was raised to apply on the remodelling expenses. An oil furnace, new rug, hardwood floor, Venetian shades, choir chairs, and new pews were installed.

The amount received from the sale of the parsonage was \$2963.25; chicken fry \$430.64; personal donations \$880.39; memorial fund \$528.15; making a total of \$4802.43 spent on the remodelling project. The Sunday School re-decorated the basement at the same time, buying small folding chairs, and modern tables around which the classes meet.

Of the amount spent on the remodelling, five hundred dollars was given by Mrs. Della Pyatt in memory of her husband, Robert I. Pyatt, who had been an elder for forty-four years.

Miss Grace Kimzey donated a set of flags, Christian and United States, in memory of her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Kimzey and her grandfather, Ephraim Robinson Kimzey, who was killed while helping to construct the church in 1854.

Mrs. Pearl Pyatt paid for the new door and wished to have it dedicated in memory of her husband, Frank Pyatt, who was an elder for sixteen years, having been installed in 1936: Following his death in 1952, John Weatherford was elected to serve in his place.

Two other gifts, given previously, which are still serving as reminders of faithful former membes are the communion set which was presented to the church by Misses Nettie and Mary Pyatt, and the picture "The Head of Christ" given by a Sunday School Class and dedicated to their sincere and faithful teacher, Miss Jennie Pyatt.

A modern oak cabinet, in wood to match the pews, is being presented by the children of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Armnstrong in their memory. Mr. Armstrong's funeral, November 22, 1953, was the first to be conducted in the re-decorated church. He had been a member of Galum Church for sixty-eight years and a ruling elder for thirty-eight years. Maurice Dry was chosen to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. Armstrong.

By the grace of God and the cooperation of many members and friends, Galum Presbyterian Church has reached another milestone and is ready to be re-dedicated on the commemoration day of its organization, June 27, 1954.



Picture of inside of Church, June, 1954

